

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5454

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, UK, UR, UN

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL SHEVCHENKO: UK COMPLAINT

1. TEXT FOLLOWS OF A LETTER FROM UK PERM REP RICHARDS
TO SYG WALDHEIM COMPLAINING ABOUT USYG OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
POLICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS, SHEVCHENKO.

2. UK MISOFF LOGAN TOLD US HE UNDERSTOOD FROM DISARMAMENT
AFFAIRS DIVISION CHIEF BJORNERSTEDT THAT SHEVCHENKO HAS
BLOCKED BJORNERSTEDT'S ATTEMPTS TO CIRCULATE JOB DESCRIPTIONS
OF THE NEW POSITIONS TO BE ADDED TO THE DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS
DIVISION, EXPLAINING THAT ONE P-5 POSITION HAS BEEN PROMISED TO THE
SOVIETS AND A P-3 POSITION HAS BEEN PROMISED TO A "WESTERN"
COUNTRY WHICH SUPPORTED THE RES CALLING FOR THE STRENGTHENING
OF THE DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION.

QUOTE

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BRING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION
AN INCIDENT REPORTED TO ME BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR M E ALLEN,
AMBASSADOR, ALTERNATE DELEGATE AND DEPUTY LEADER TO THE
UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT IN GENEVA, WHO LED OUR DELEGATION
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IN THE 30 TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE DISARMAMENT ITEMS.

ON 4 DECEMBER 1975 MR ALLEN, AFTER AN OFFICIAL LUNCH, GAVE A LIFT IN HIS CAR TO MR ARKADY N SHEVCHENKO, UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS, TOGETHER WITH THREE OTHER AMBASSADORS. IN THE COURSE OF THE DRIVE, MR SHEVCHENKO SAID TO MR ALLEN THAT IF THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD VOTE FOR RESOLUTION A/C.1/L749 (WHICH CALLED FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL STAFF) HE WOULD MAKE SURE THAT WE WERE GIVEN A POST IN HIS DIVISION. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM ABSTAINED ON THE RESOLUTION, HE SAID, "I SHALL BE VERY DIFFICULT INDEED." MR ALLEN, UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, SIMPLY SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE NOTE. MR SHEVCHENKO THEN ASKED IF HE SHOULD SPEAK TO ME, BUT MR ALLEN DISCOURAGED THIS SUGGESTION. IN REPORTING THIS CONVERSATION TO ME, MR ALLEN SAID THAT HE NATURALLY HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING OUR DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION, DESPITE MR SHEVCHENKO'S OUTRAGEOUS REMARK. AFTER THE VOTE, MR ALLEN SAID IN PASSING TO MR SHEVCHENKO THAT HE WAS SORRY THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO HELP HIM "WITH HIS BAD RESOLUTION". MR SHEVCHENKO COMMENTED, "VERY BAD, VERY BAD; I SHALL NOT HELP YOU", OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT.

I AM REPORTING THIS EPISODE FORMALLY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, AS I KNOW YOU WOULD WISH TO BE AWARE THAT A SENIOR MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF HAS BEEN ACTING IN THIS HIGHLY IMPROPER FASHION. AS YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO RECOGNISE, SUCH BEHAVIOUR IS DAMAGING NOT ONLY TO THE REPUTATION OF MR SHEVCHENKO, BUT, WHICH IS MUCH MORE SERIOUS, TO THE GOOD NAME OF THE SECRETARIAT AS A WHOLE. IN MAKING THE TYPE OF PROPOSITION HE MADE TO MR ALLEN, MR SHEVCHENKO IS UNDOUBTEDLY IN BREACH OF ARTICLE 1 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS, IN PARTICULAR REGULATION 1.4.

MR SHEVCHENKO ALSO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ARTICLE 101 OF THE CHARTER HAD BECOME A DEAD LETTER; THAT HE, RATHER THAN YOUR EXCELLENCY, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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APPOINTING THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS; AND THAT THE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF HIS DEPARTMENT'S STAFF IS NO LONGER "THE NECESSITY OF SECURING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF EFFICIENCY, COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY". AS YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AWARE, MY GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS ATTACHED THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE CONCEPT OF AN IMPARTIAL INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE.

WE VIEW WITH DEEP CONCERN ANY EVIDENCE THAT THIS
IMPARTIALITY IS BEING ERODED.

MY DELEGATION THUS TAKES AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS
VIEW OF THE INCIDENT WHICH I AM NOW REPORTING. I DO
NOT DOUBT THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL BE EQUALLY CONCERNED
ABOUT THE ISSUES WHICH IT RAISES. I WOULD ALSO, IN
VIEW OF THIS DISQUIETING INDICATION OF MR SHEVCHENKO'S
CRITERIA FOR ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL STAFF, REQUEST FROM
YOUR EXCELLENCY AN ASSURANCE THAT YOU WILL SUPERVISE
PERSONALLY ANY FUTURE APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISARMAMENT
DIVISION WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT THEY ARE BASED ON
THE PROPER CRITERIA.

I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO
YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION
UNQUOTE
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